

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 IO-10

AID-05 EB-07 OMB-01 FDRE-00 PC-05 AGR-10 HEW-06 /110 W

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R 231137Z JUL 75

FM AMCONSUL LAHORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0517

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMCONSUL KARACHI

UNCLAS LAHORE 0855

DEPARTMENT ALSO PASS TO AID/FDRC

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN, PK

SUBJECT: PUNJAB SEASONAL FLOODS RECEDE -- FOR THE PRESENT

REF: LAHORE 834, 840, 845

1. LATEST PRESS AND RADIO REPORTS, BASED ON OFFICIAL PUNJAB GOVERNMENT RELEASES AND CONFIRMED BY OFFICIAL SOURCES, AGREE THAT DISCHARGE OF SEASONALLY FLOODED PUNJAB RIVERS -- MAINLY RAVI AND CHENAB SYSTEMS -- HAS GRADUALLY DECREASED, ALTHOUGH SOME NEW FLOODING CONTINUES IN DOWNSTREAM AREAS AS "BULGE" RUNS ITS COURSE. JASSAR HEADWORKS ON UPPER RAVI REPORTED "SATISFACTORY" SITUATION JULY 22 WITH FLOW REDUCED TO 75,000 CUSECS FROM HIGH OF ABOUT 200,000 LAST WEEKEND, AND MARALA HEADWORKS ON UPPER CHENAB RUNNING 108,000 CUSECS COMPARED WITH OVER 507,000 JULY 16.

2. RADIO BULLETIN MID-AFTERNOON JULY 23, HOWEVER, REPORTS RISE AT BOTH JASSAR AND MARALA FROM MEDIUM TO HIGH FLOOD CONDITIONS (FIGURES NOT GIVEN) DUE TO LATEST RAINS IN CATCHMENT AREAS IN INDIA, SO ROUND TWO MAY ALREADY BE APPROACHING.

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3. "FIRST WAVE" OF FLOODING HAS REACHED SOUTHERN PUNJAB, WITH PANJNAD HEADWORKS IN BAHAWALPUR (WHICH CARRIES COMBINED FLOW OF SUTLEJ, RAVI, CHENAB AND JHELUM) REPORTING A HIGH OF 400,000 CUSECS BUT NO DANGER TO HEADWORKS OR BUNDS (WHICH BREACHED IN 1973 ONLY AFTER FLOW EXCEEDED 950,000 CUSECS.) PANJNAD IS DESIGNED -- AND BUNDS HAVE NOW BEEN STRENGTHENED -- TO CONTAIN UP TO 1 MILLION CUSECS.

4. NEW LOCALIZED FLOODING IS REPORTED IN JHANG, SAHIWAL AND MULTAN DISTRICTS DUE TO EROSION OF MARGINAL BUNDS, ADDING SUBSTANTIALLY TO NUMBERS OF VILLAGES AND AREA OF LAND INUNDATED IN PUNJAB THOUGH OF LESS MAGNITUDE THAN FLOODING IN SIALKOT, LAHORE AND SHEIKHPURA DISTRICTS LAST WEEK. (USAID ISLAMABAD IS REPORTING OFFICIAL STATISTICS ON FLOOD-AFFECTED POPULATION AND LANDS RELEASED BY GOP.)

5. PRIME MINISTER BHUTTO IS SURVEYING FLOOD-AFFECTED AREAS FROM LAHORE JULY 23 AND RESPONSIBLE OFFICIALS INCLUDING FLOOD AND RELIEF COMMISSIONERS HAVE ACCOMPANIED HIM. WE WILL SEEK UPDATED ASSESSMENT FROM OFFICIAL SOURCES JULY 24 INCLUDING ANY PROSPECT OF NEW CYCLE OF FLOODING.
SPENGLER

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